

# WEEKLY BULLETIN

## CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

ESTABLISHED APRIL 15, 1870  
BERTRAM P. BROWN, M. D., Director



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GUY P. JONES  
Editor

## DELAYED BIRTH REGISTRATION PLAN

There are three bills now pending before Congress, each of which makes provision for delayed registration of births. One of them, H.R. 6600, was reported favorably by the committee, debated, and amended on the floor of the House and passed on March 19th. At the first of April it was in the Senate Committee on Immigration. This bill provides for the issuance of documentary evidence of United States citizenship by amending the Nationality Act of 1940. Under the provisions of this bill a person who claims to be a citizen of the United States, other than a person naturalized on his own petition, may apply for a certificate of citizenship, and under rules and regulations promulgated by the Commissioner may receive such a certificate upon submission of satisfactory proof that he is a citizen. A fee of \$1 is required with the application.

Another bill, H.R. 6138, a forerunner to H.R. 6600, really supplants H.R. 6138, because of the many amendments that were presented when this measure was introduced.

The third bill, S. 2299, represents substantially the desires of the War Department and has been acted upon favorably by the Senate Committee on Military Affairs. By this bill the Director of the Census is authorized upon payment of a filing fee to issue a "certified birth record" for any person who has furnished proof of his birth within a State of the United States or District of Columbia. Certified birth records would show the date and place of birth of the person whose record is certified, the names of his or her parents and any other information

relating to the record of birth which the director might determine appropriate.

Applications would be filed with the postmaster at any first-class or second-class post office or at any post office located at a county seat. Evidence of probative value of the facts must be submitted with each application. The postmaster would be required to obtain fingerprint records of the persons whose record of birth is to be certified, which would be forwarded together with the application and fee to the Director of the Census at Washington.

All data and information filed by applicants for certified birth records would be preserved in a central file in Washington and would constitute public records. The Director of the Census would be authorized and directed to charge sufficient fees, as he might prescribe, for furnishing copies of any records or parts relating to certified birth records.

Under the provisions of this bill the postmaster would act as agent of the Bureau of the Census to receive all documentary evidence of birth together with application for a certified birth record. The certified record, however, would be issued only by the Director of the Census at Washington. In addition to the application fee of \$1, the fee for the certified record itself is not specified, but it is presumed that the cost of the whole procedure would be less than \$5.

Of the three bills it would seem that S. 2299 is the most logical in its provisions. The authority for issuance of records is placed with the U. S. Bureau of the Census, which Bureau has all other data pertaining to vital statistics throughout the United States. Since the bill covers vastly more than mere



establishment of citizenship, it belongs properly within the Bureau of the Census rather than with the Commissioner of Immigration.

It is possible that other legislation upon this subject may be introduced, but because of the importance of delayed birth registration throughout the United States at the present time and because of the need for a uniform procedure, it is hoped that adequate legislation may be adopted without delay.

### CLINICS FOR CRIPPLED CHILDREN

The following clinics for crippled children were held during February:

Madera—49 children examined

Orange—40 children examined

The following cardiac clinics were conducted during February:

Oakland—13 children examined

Contra Costa County—5 children examined

Solano County—6 children examined

On December 31, 1941, 13,498 physically handicapped children were listed on the State register. During February, 225 children were admitted to hospitals and 9,517 days of care were provided. An average of 96 children per day was cared for in hospitals under auspices of the Crippled Children's Services.

### BOTULISM REPORTED

Five cases of this disease, three of which were fatal, were investigated in Kern County during February. All five cases were due to eating home-canned dill pickles. Laboratory diagnosis was confirmed and the causative organism was demonstrated in the pickles. This is the first known instance of botulism having occurred from eating products with such a high acid content.

### CARBON TETRACHLORIDE HAZARD IN SHIPYARD

An investigation was made in a shipbuilding plant in which cork insulating material was being applied to the interior of ship holds with an adhesive containing carbon tetrachloride. Fourteen workmen engaged in this operation had lost time from work because of illness from inhalation of the vapors. Symptoms were dizziness, headache, and vomiting. Recommendations were made to provide positive and negative pressure ventilation to the general atmosphere of the cabins, and/or supplied-air respirators or canister-type gas masks.

### INSANITARY RESTAURANT BRINGS HEAVY PUNISHMENT

In San Luis Obispo County it is extremely hazardous to conduct a restaurant unless it is kept scrupulously clean. The proprietor of a well-known eating place in that county has learned that neither county or State health officers nor Army personnel will stand for insanitation in the storing, handling, or serving of food.

Last July an inspection was made of a well-known eating place in the county, and again in November. Further inspection in March revealed the fact that no attempt had been made to correct the insanitary conditions that had been previously noted and reported. As a result, a complaint was sworn out through the district attorney's office, charging the proprietor of the restaurant with violation of the State Food Sanitation Act and operation of an insanitary eating establishment. The proprietor pleaded guilty and was fined \$100, the judge warning him that if he was brought into court again on these charges the fine would be \$500 and six months in jail. The restaurant was placed "off limits" for three days by the Army.

An idea of the conditions that were encountered is revealed in the following portion of a report of inspection made by the San Luis Obispo County Health Department:

- "1. Refrigerator boxes very insanitary and foul from decomposed foodstuffs.
2. Box used for cracked ice insanitary; no false bottom to keep ice out of residue that accumulates on bottom of box.
3. Fish box in bad state of repair making the proper cleaning impossible.
4. Condiment shelf above pie worktable insanitary and cluttered with filth and grease; condiment containers filthy and covered with dirt.
5. Drawer used for knives, grinders, and various tools filthy; covered with decomposed food residue.
6. Shelf below table used for pan and kettle storage covered with grease and filth.
7. Cracks, crevices, and openings around worktables filled with filth and decomposed food.
8. Toasters, mixers, etc., insanitary and covered with decomposed foodstuffs and grease.
9. Place in general in a bad state of repair, insanitary, and unfit for the serving of food for human consumption."

### TYPHUS FEVER SURVEY

Arrangements have been made for a survey of the typhus fever problem in California. Epidemic typhus is becoming more prevalent in some sections of the State. Plans were made for rat trapping. Laboratory studies were made and 25 typhus histories were taken.



### RESTAURANT OWNER IS WARNED

The conviction of a restaurant owner in San Luis Obispo who maintained an insanitary eating place has already been reported in these columns. Another restaurant owner in San Luis Obispo was recently cited by the County Health Department to answer charges of violation of the State Food Sanitation Act. At the office of the District Attorney he was warned that prosecution will result if his place of business does not meet the State sanitation requirements when inspected. This restaurant has been placed "out of bounds" for all Army personnel.

It is apparent that the health officers of those coastal counties where large numbers of military personnel are assembled are cooperating with the military authorities to see that all eating places in these counties shall be maintained with high standards of sanitation. The arrest, conviction, fining, and "out of bounds" order are accomplishing exceptionally good results in the promotion of cleanliness in public eating places.

### EPIDEMIC JAUNDICE

Extensive laboratory work in this disease was carried on from the middle of November to the middle of February. Material collected from 90 cases during a six-month period was studied. The specimens consisted of fresh blood, urine, autopsy specimens and similar frozen material. In addition to usual laboratory studies material was inoculated into guinea pigs, hamsters, cotton rats, kangaroo rats and monkeys. All laboratory work was negative and no etiological agent was revealed.

### "DUST FEVER" IN COTTON MILLS

In several plants handling cotton (cottonseed oil and cotton ginning plants), the employees had been suffering from "dust fever" which is caused by the inhalation of organic dust. The symptoms included respiratory disorders, fever, chills, nausea, and vomiting. The seed being stripped of the lint at these plants comes from "bolly" cotton. Cases of dust fever among mill workers have frequently been associated with processing of "bolly" cotton in cotton-producing states of the South. In the plants investigated by the Industrial Hygiene Service, two types of linters were in operation—a flue type, and an older condenser type. Dust concentrations were found to be very high at the latter type of machine. Recommendations included the use of local exhaust ventilation at the condenser-type linters, the use of

filter-type respirators for workmen, and the substitution of a vacuum cleaning system for the pressure air line system now in use for cleaning around the machines. It is interesting to note that the three men who visited the plants to investigate this trouble, developed dust fever immediately upon leaving the plant. They experienced chills, fever, dizziness, vomiting, and a marked sensation of pressure of the chest. Complete recovery followed in about six hours.

The California State Department of Public Health is proud of the members of its staff who have entered the armed forces of the United States. It is with a sense of great pride that the names of the following men who have entered such forces are listed here:

#### UNITED STATES NAVY

Lloyd P. Bascom  
Alcor Browne  
O. L. Butterfield  
James R. Keefer  
E. B. Mansfield  
Don Roberts

#### UNITED STATES ARMY

Clark Beckwith  
Jules Comroe, M.D.  
Leon Comroe, M.D.  
Joseph Copeland, M.D.  
Robert Dyar, M.D.  
Edward Hirschberg, M.D.  
George Husser, M.D.  
Edward Maher, M.D.

#### UNITED STATES MARINES

John Cruzan

### DEMAND FOR BIRTH RECORDS

During February the Bureau of Vital Statistics issued more than 7,000 paid certified copies of records, mostly birth certificates. The demand for proof of age and citizenship for purposes of engaging in war activities continued without abatement. Such demand, in fact, is increasing. In spite of handicaps the bureau is giving priority to all applications for birth certificates for individuals who wish to enter the Air Corps or to engage in any other active branch of the Army or Navy.



**MORBIDITY\*****Complete Reports for Certain Diseases Recorded for Week Ending April 4, 1942****Chickenpox**

1382 cases from the following counties: Alameda 157, Calaveras 5, Contra Costa 75, Fresno 24, Imperial 8, Kern 20, Kings 14, Los Angeles 517, Marin 1, Merced 1, Modoc 2, Monterey 2, Napa 3, Orange 24, Placer 1, Sacramento 43, San Bernardino 22, San Diego 193, San Francisco 90, San Joaquin 11, San Luis Obispo 3, San Mateo 34, Santa Barbara 30, Santa Clara 36, Shasta 1, Siskiyou 16, Solano 5, Sonoma 6, Stanislaus 1, Sutter 1, Tulare 23, Ventura 9, Yolo 4.

**German Measles**

1381 cases from the following counties: Alameda 243, Butte 1, Colusa 3, Contra Costa 5, Fresno 10, Imperial 7, Inyo 1, Kern 44, Kings 1, Los Angeles 200, Marin 10, Merced 4, Modoc 5, Monterey 8, Napa 8, Orange 12, Placer 1, Sacramento 7, San Bernardino 16, San Diego 311, San Francisco 208, San Joaquin 87, San Luis Obispo 43, San Mateo 45, Santa Barbara 6, Santa Clara 15, Solano 7, Sonoma 14, Stanislaus 8, Sutter 2, Tehama 4, Tulare 23, Ventura 1, Yolo 16, Yuba 5.

**Measles**

6254 cases from the following counties: Alameda 423, Butte 67, Colusa 2, Calaveras 6, Contra Costa 103, Fresno 375, Imperial 143, Kern 147, Kings 5, Los Angeles 2321, Madera 99, Marin 13, Mariposa 2, Merced 64, Modoc 2, Monterey 23, Napa 52, Orange 352, Placer 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento 166, San Benito 2, San Bernardino 127, San Diego 746, San Francisco 211, San Joaquin 103, San Luis Obispo 77, San Mateo 22, Santa Barbara 97, Santa Clara 19, Shasta 4, Siskiyou 38, Solano 17, Sonoma 73, Stanislaus 44, Sutter 32, Tehama 15, Tulare 156, Tuolumne 16, Ventura 38, Yolo 48, Yuba 1.

**Mumps**

1894 cases from the following counties: Alameda 149, Butte 1, Colusa 3, Contra Costa 42, Del Norte 2, Fresno 86, Imperial 107, Inyo 2, Kern 64, Kings 47, Los Angeles 369, Madera 13, Marin 12, Merced 1, Monterey 36, Napa 26, Orange 68, Riverside 2, Sacramento 114, San Bernardino 38, San Diego 296, San Francisco 113, San Joaquin 75, San Luis Obispo 16, San Mateo 28, Santa Barbara 14, Santa Clara 56, Shasta 1, Solano 5, Sonoma 41, Stanislaus 7, Sutter 6, Tehama 17, Trinity 2, Tulare 11, Ventura 13, Yolo 11.

**Scarlet Fever**

104 cases from the following counties: Alameda 4, Contra Costa 1, Fresno 10, Kern 3, Los Angeles 42, Madera 1, Marin 1, Merced 1, Monterey 3, Orange 2, Sacramento 4, San Bernardino 5, San Diego 10, San Francisco 5, San Joaquin 3, San Luis Obispo 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 1, Siskiyou 2, Sonoma 2, Tuolumne 1.

**Whooping Cough**

292 cases from the following counties: Alameda 27, Butte 15, Fresno 15, Imperial 2, Kern 10, Los Angeles 64, Madera 1, Modoc 19, Monterey 1, Orange 7, Sacramento 30, San Bernardino 1, San Diego 23, San Francisco 3, San Joaquin 12, San Luis Obispo 4, San Mateo 3, Santa Barbara 17, Santa Clara 8, Siskiyou 2, Solano 2, Sonoma 4, Stanislaus 2, Sutter 1, Tehama 1, Tulare 4, Ventura 4, Yolo 10.

**Botulism**

2 cases from Mendocino County.

**Diarrhea of Newborn (Epidemic)**

One case from Los Angeles County.

**Diphtheria**

19 cases from the following counties: Alameda 2, Los Angeles 10, Merced 2, Sacramento 1, San Diego 2, San Francisco 1, California 1.\*\*

**Dysentery (Bacillary)**

One case from Sonoma County.

**Epilepsy**

28 cases from the following counties: Alameda 4, Los Angeles 19, San Bernardino 1, San Francisco 1, Solano 1, Sonoma 2.

**Influenza**

248 cases reported in the State.

**Jaundice (Epidemic)**

17 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 13, Santa Clara 3, Sutter 1.

\* Data regarding the other reportable diseases not listed herein, may be obtained upon request.

\*\* Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the State or those who contracted their illness traveling about the State throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

**Meningitis (Epidemic)**

9 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Los Angeles 4, Sacramento 1, San Francisco 1, Yolo 1, Yuba 1.

**Rabies (Animal)**

10 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 7, Madera 1, San Diego 2.

**Rheumatic Fever**

11 cases from the following counties: Contra Costa 8, Los Angeles 1, San Bernardino 2.

**Septic Sore Throat**

4 cases from the following counties: Alameda 1, Kern 1, Los Angeles 1, Sacramento 1.

**Typhoid Fever**

3 cases: Los Angeles 2, California 1.\*\*

**Undulant Fever**

7 cases from the following counties: Los Angeles 5, Sonoma 1, Sutter 1.

**PNEUMONITIS CANCER**

Three cases in a Japanese family on an Inyo County ranch were investigated but no laboratory material was available for study. Similar cases were encountered at two military camps. They were thought to be of virus etiology and nose and throat washings and blood specimens were taken on 10 cases for laboratory study.

**CARBON MONOXIDE EXPOSURE IN PUBLIC GARAGE**

At the request of the Industrial Accident Commission, carbon monoxide determinations were made recently in a large public garage. This was done as a check survey to compare present conditions with those of about six months ago, when a survey was conducted at the same garage. Concentrations of carbon monoxide at the time of the more recent survey were found to be within safe limits.

**AFFIDAVITS**

By eliminating the making of an amended copy of a record when an affidavit is applied to amend the original, the work of the Bureau of Vital Statistics has been made much more efficient. The time-consuming process of making the amended copy has now been eliminated and only a photostatic copy of the original certificate and a photostatic copy of the affidavit are provided, when a certified copy of the record is requested.

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Medical Library,  
3rd & Parnassus Aves.,  
San Francisco, Calif.

